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January 22, 2002

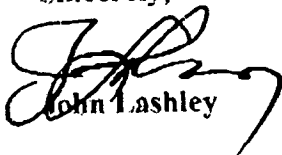
Attorney General John Ashcroft
US Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Ave. NW
Washington DC 20530-0001

Dear Attorney General Ashcroft:

I would like to register my opinion about the antitrust settlement with Microsoft. I believe it should be settled in the interests of the country and the technology sector. The idea that Microsoft is so superior to other software developers is false. I am attaching the download that Microsoft sent me so that I could "write" you. This is the way they interface with their own software---totally unusable garbage. As both a Windows 2000 user, Internet user, and former AOL and Apple user, I want to state unequivocally that there is plenty of room for innovation with other companies. It should be easy to provide better products than those produced by Microsoft, and if they are available, I will buy them.

The timeline between the Department of Justice starting this "witch hunt" and the troubles in our economy and the stock market are more than just coincidence. It is time for America and innovation to move forward.

Sincerely,


John Lashley

4755 W
Sunset Road
Tucson, AZ 85743-9606

January 15, 2002

Attorney General John Ashcroft
US Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530-0001

Dear Mr. Ashcroft:

I am writing to express my opinion of the recent antitrust settlement between Microsoft and the US Department of Justice. The case has been dragging on too long. It seems to be a political showcase instead of principled lawsuit. I am in support of the settlement because I believe it is in best interest of country to end this case. But, I think the concessions Microsoft is being forced to make are too harsh.

IF MERGEFIELD PARA1 Some people have made the mistake of seeing Shunt's work as a load of rubbish about railway timetables. <> "" "

I do not feel that my rights have been infringed upon as a Microsoft user. In fact I think that Microsoft's products have been more superior to other vendors. That is why I choose Microsoft's services. The terms of the settlement will definitely be to the advantage of competitors, and I believe I in some ways violate Microsoft's intellectual property rights. For instance, Microsoft will have to disclose internal interfaces and protocols that took time and money to develop. They will also be granting computer makers broad new rights to configure Windows so as to promote non-Microsoft software.

IF MERGEFIELD PARA2 But clever people like me who talk loudly in restaurants, see this as a deliberate ambiguity. A plea for justice in a mechanized society. <> "" "

These stipulations make no sense for Microsoft as a business, but they are agreeing to do so because further litigation would be even more detrimental not only to Microsoft, but also to the IT sector. Please do what is right for our nation and quell opposition and finalize the settlement. Thank you for your time.

IF MERGEFIELD PARA3 When Shunt says the 8:15 from Paddington he really means the 8:17 from Paddington. The places are the same, only the time is altered. <> "" "

"" "

IF MERGEFIELD PARA5 But is suspense, as Hitchcock states, in the box. No, there isn't room, the ambiguity's put on weight. <> "" "

" ""

Sincerely,

John Lashley

John Lashley is a professional writer and editor who has worked for several years in the publishing industry. He has a degree in English from the University of California, Los Angeles, and has been a member of the National Writers Guild since 1985. He has written and edited a variety of books, including fiction, non-fiction, and children's books. He is currently working on a novel about a young boy who discovers a secret about his family's past. He is also a frequent contributor to various magazines and newspapers. He lives in Los Angeles with his wife and two children.